

***Erythronium revolutum* Sm. In Rees**

pink fawn-lily  
Liliaceae (Lily Family)

**Status:** State Sensitive

**Rank:** G4S3

**General Description:** Perennial herb from deep-seated, elongate, underground corms; one pair of leaves, basal, petiolate to subsessile, strongly mottled with irregular patches of pale green on a dark green background, broadly elliptic, mostly 5 to 7 in. (12 to 18 cm) in length; flowers deep pink and showy, one to several on a leafless scape; tepals distinct, deep pink, drying to pinkish purple, spreading at the anthesis but eventually reflexed, often closing with age, alike or generally the inner set somewhat broader, both sets or only the inner with 2 to 4 sac-like appendages near the base abutting against the filaments; stamens 6, anthers yellow, closely surrounding the style, half reduced in length after dehiscence; style slender, generally about equal in length to the tips of the longest anthers, stigma shallowly to deeply three lobed, lobes approximately 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2 to 3 mm); capsules obovoid to cylindric-clavate, 1 to 1½ in. (3 to 4 cm).

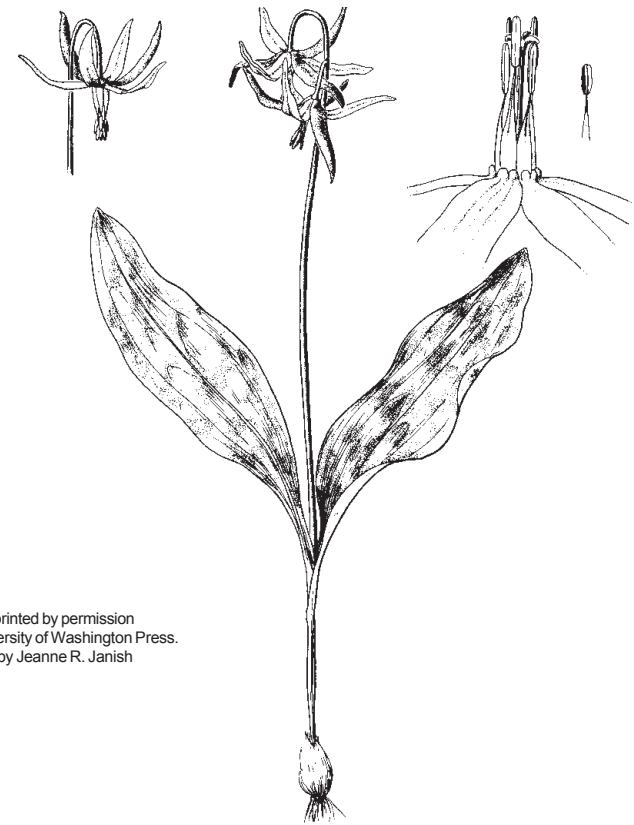
**Identification Tips:** *Erythronium oregonum* is similar but has white petals that become pinkish in drying, slightly longer tepals, and a more elongated capsule than *E. revolutum*. *E. montanum* is also similar but is easily distinguished by its flowers, which are white at peak flowering, linear anther filaments that are <1/32 in. (3/4 mm) wide, and uniformly green leaves. *E. revolutum*, *E. elegans* and *E. quinaultense* have flowers that are pink or pink tinged at peak flowering, linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, anthers that are >1/32 in. (3/4 mm) wide, and leaves that are mottled with brown or pale green patches. These three species can be distinguished from one another by the following characteristics: The leaves of *E. revolutum* are distinctly mottled, flowers are uniformly clear pink, and the lanceolate anther filaments are 1/16 to 1/8 in. (1.5 to 3.0 mm) wide. *E. elegans* and *E. quinaultense* have faint leaf mottling, which is at times absent in juvenile specimens, white flowers shading to pink, and linear-lanceolate anther filaments that are 1/32 to 1/16 in. (0.8 to 1.8 mm) wide. *E. elegans*, known from the coastal range of Oregon, has white to pinkish tepals and anther filaments, which are 1/32 to 1/16 in. (3/4 to 1½ mm) wide. The outer tepals are generally more strongly colored, especially on the outer surface. *E. quinaultense*, known from the Olympic Mountains of Washington, has tepals that are white near the base and shading to pink at the margins and tips and anther filaments, which are often pink tinged, and 1/32 to 1/16 in. (1 to 1 3/4 mm) wide.

**Phenology:** Flowers from April to May.

**Range:** This species occurs throughout the Pacific Coast region from southern British Columbia to northwestern California. In Washington, it has been seen in Skagit, Clallam, Jefferson, Wahkiakum, Pacific, and Grays Harbor counties.

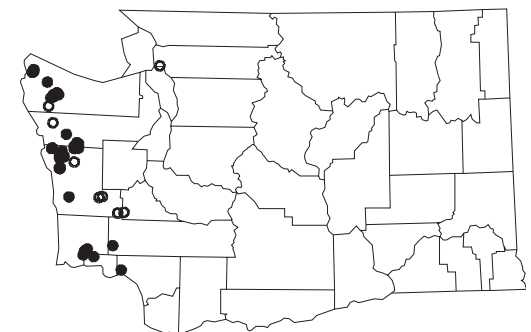
***Erythronium revolutum***

pink fawn-lily



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Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish

Known distribution  
of *Erythronium revolutum*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Washington Natural Heritage Program Photo



Photo by Thea Hellyer

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**Habitat:** The species prefers moist mineral soil in open or moderately shaded areas. Frequently described habitats for Washington sites include swampy western red cedar (*Tsuga heterophylla*)-lodge polepine (*Pinus contorta*) forests, light Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) woods on consolidated sand dunes, Sitka spruce- western hemlock (*Picea sitchensis*-*Tsuga heterophylla*) forests in the duff layer, and in shaded river bottoms with mixed conifer-hardwood or pure hardwood thickets. Most sites in Washington have a moderately well developed moss layer.

**Ecology:** Maturity of *E. revolutum* is presumed to take somewhere between eight to ten years based on developmental characteristics and perhaps to a lesser extent on local climatic conditions (Bierly, 1982). Bierly and Stockhouse conclude that full light at ground level is essential for the growth and reproduction of *E. revolutum* (Bierly, 1982). The species occurs in an area that receives a high amount of annual precipitation, averaging 150 in. (381 cm), with 30 in. (76 cm) of that occurring as snowfall. The high annual rainfall and associated overland runoff typical of this species' habitat probably aid in seed dispersal. Local mountain beavers (*Aplonfontia rufa*) and elk (*Cervus elaphus*) may also play a role in seed dispersal (James, 1983).

**State Status Comments:** The limited number of known populations in Washington is responsible for the species' sensitive status.

**Inventory Needs:** Additional inventory is needed, particularly in areas intensively managed for commercial timber production.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Plant collecting, timber harvest, road building, land development, trampling by hikers, and grazing are potential threats to the species.

**References:**

- Bierly, K.F. and R.E. Stockhouse II. 1982. Sensitive species conservation status report, Coast fawn lily (*E. revolutum*). US Forest Service, Siuslaw National Forest, Contract No. 400-04T0-2-384: Bierly & Associates, Salem, Oregon.
- Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1973. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington. 730 pp.
- James, J.C. 1983. Species management guide for *E. revolutum*. U.S. Forest Service, Olympic National Forest (Quinault Ranger District), Quinault, Washington.